

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 MCE-00 L-03 DHA-02 COME-00 EB-08 H-01
/074 W

-----052526 161425Z /45

R 161030Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2867
INFO DSAA WASHINGTON
DA WASHINGTON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDAO NDJAMENA CHAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 YAOUNDE 3561

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, CM
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR
FY 1979: ECONOMIC, ARMS CONTROL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE 133136, (B) YAOUNDE 3549, (C) YAOUNDE 3484,
(D) YAOUNDE 3440, (E) YAOUNDE 3005, (F) YAOUNDE 2884

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS
ON ECONOMIC IMPACT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL RAISED IN
PARAGRAPH 4 IN SUB-PARAGRAPHS E THROUGH K INREFTEL A WHICH
HAVE NOT BEEN COVERED IN REFTELS B THROUGH D. END SUMMARY.

2. DETAILS ON THE IMPACT OF THE MILITARY BUDGET ON THE HOSE
COUNTRY'S ECONOMY ARE GIVEN IN REFTEL F. THE MILITARY BUDGET
IS REALISTIC IN TERMS OF GURC NEEDS AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE
AN EXCESSIVE DEMAND ON RESOURCES. NEITHER DEBT SERVICE
(APPROXIMATELY SEVEN PER CENT) NOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WOULD
BE AFFECTED TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE BY PURCHASES FROM U.S.
UNDER THE PROPOSED FMS CREDITS. THE PROPOSED PROGRAM WOULD
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ADD ABOUT ONE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL BUDGET.

3. THE ARMED FORCES BUDGET ALLOCATION HAS DECREASED FROM
11.0 PERCENT IN FY 76 TO 9.5 PERCENT IN FY 77 AND A PROPOSED
9.7 PERCENT IN FY 78(SEE REFTEL F). MORE IMPORTANTLY, FY 76
EXPENDITURES FOR ARMS AND MUNITIONS REPRESENTED 0.6PERCENT OF TOTAL
GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND 5.2 PERCENT OF TOTAL MILITARY BUDGET. IN

THE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET, THE LIMITATION ON FUNDS TO MILITARY IS EVEN MORE EVIDENT AS THEY RECEIVE LESS THAN FIVE PER CENT OF TOTAL (\$4 MILLION OF \$88 MILLION). THIS INCLUDES \$2 MILLION FOR CONSTRUCTING MILITARY BARRACKS IN DOUALA (TO RELOCATE AWAY FROM NEW HOTEL CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION) AND C-130 HANGERS, \$1 MILLION IN EQUIPMENT FOR THE MILITARY ENGINEERS, \$700,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ROADS (BOTH ARE FOR DEVELOPMENT, BUT ONE-MINITOM-ALATIC-NBOILA-IS ALSO OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AS IT IS NEAR CONGOLESE BORDER) AND ONLY \$75,000 FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION. BY BUILDING AND MAINTAINING ROADS, THE GURC IS ATTEMPTING TO USE THE MILITARY ENGINEERS AS AN INSTRUMENT TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY. INCLUDING ALL COSTS, THE GURC HAS DISCOVERED THAT THE ENGINEERS CAN CONSTRUCT ROADS FOR ABOUT HALF COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION CHARGES.

4. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT UP TO TWO CIVILIAN CONTRACT PERSONNEL FOR PERIODS OF FROM SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR IN COUNTRY TRAINING IN MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF RADIO

EQUIPMENT, COASTAL SURVEILLANCE RADAR AND VC-150'S. SOME TRAINING COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY SENDING GURC MILITARY TO THE US, BUT PROBABLY MORE EFFECTIVE TRAINING COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY ON-THE-JOB LOCAL TRAINING, ESPECIALLY WITH THE RADAR. NO PROBLEMS ARE ANTICIPATED FROM ANY ADDED PRESENCE. IN ANY

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EVENT ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT IS SPACED OUT SO THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE ONLY ONE TRAINING TEAM AT ANY GIVEN TIME. THIS CONTRASTS WITH OVER 90 FRENCH MILITARY ASSIGNED TO MILITARY TRAINING ROLES IN CAMEROON.

5. BEACH REQUEST FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT APPEARS TO BE MADE WITH THE US IN MIND AS PROVIDING THE ONLY OR THE BEST SYSTEM REQUIRED. TO THE EXTENT THAT THESE ARTICLES ARE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, THEY ARE PROBABLY MADE UNDER LICENSE AND WOULD REQUIRE USG PERMISSION FOR RELEASE. IF THE US DENIES THE REQUEST FOR FMS CREDITS, THEN THE GURC MAY EVENTUALLY ATTEMPT COMMERCIAL PURCHASE, BUT PROBABLY THROUGH US COMPANIES.

6. THE REGIONAL ARMS IMPACT OF FURNISHING EQUIPMENT LISTED PARA 2 OF REFTEL D WOULD BE THAT CAMEROON WOULD INCREASE ITS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, BUT WOULD STILL BE BELOW CONGO AND NIGERIA IN TERMS OF DEGREE OF SOPHISTICATION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS. NIGERIA, CONGO, CHAD AND GUINEA HAVE AK-47, SO EQUIPPING CAMEROON WITH M-16 WOULD MERELY BRING GURC UP TO SAME LEVEL AS ITS NEIGHBORS. MOST OF OTHER

EQUIPMENT LISTED REFTEL D IS EITHER NON-LETHAL OF COMPARABLE TO THAT WHICH OTHER MILITARY FORCES IN REGION ALREADY POSSESS. WITH RESPECT TO VC-150'S, THESE WOULD BE ADDITIONAL TO THOSE ALREADY IN CAMEROON INVENTORY AND OTHER COUNTRIES POSSESS COMPARABLE OR MORE SOPHPSTICATED VEHICLES SUCH AS CONGO (PT-76, T-62. BRBUJAQN BTR-152), NIGERIA(PANAHRD AML, SAHWADIN, FERRET, FOX, SCORPION AND SARACEN), AND CHAD(GINHW AML AND UNKNOWN RUSSIAN EQUIPMENT DELIVERED LAST YEAR).

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 YAOUNDE 3561

7. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED BY THE EMBASSY FOR PREPARATION OF THE FY 1978 CPD. PERSONS PICKED UP FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRACTS OF THE PROSCRIBED UPC HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM DETENTION (YAOUNDE 2844) AND CRIMINAL APPEAL PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN LIBERALIZED (YAOUNDE 2816). CAMEROON FOLLOWS A SOMEWHAT LIBERAL PROGRAM IN HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN COMPATED TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION. THERE ARE NO FORE-SEEABLE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE ATTITUDES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLEAND CONGRESS TOWARDS CAMEROON. APPROVAL OF DENIAL OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS WOULD PROBABLY NOT AFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES OF HOST GOVERNMENT.

8. THE GURC PRACTICES RESTRAINT IN ITS ARMS PURCHASING POLICY. THE GURC ORIGINALLY HAD A MORE ELABORATE EQUIPMENT REQUEST LIST WHICH INCLUDED SQUADRON OF F-5 AIRCRAFT TO OPPOSE M-21'S OF NIGERIA AND CONGO. HOWEVER, AFTER SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS

ON SUBJECT, IT WAS REALIZED THAT, AT THEIR PRESENT STAGE
OF DEVELOPMENT, MODERN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT ARE A LUXUARY WHICH
THEY CANNOT AFFORD, BOTH WHITH RESPECT TO INITIAL COST AND
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MAINTENANCE. THE PRESENT EQUIPMENT LIST IS REFINED FROM
CONSIDERABLE REFLECTION ON MINIMUM NEEDS TO MEET PERCEIVED
THREATS. ONCE GURC FELT THAT ITS MINIMUM NEEDS HAD BEEN
MET, IT WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME ATTEMPTS, AND MIGHT EVEN BE
WILLING TO TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLE, TO ACHIEVE SOME TYPE OF
REGIONAL OR CONTINENTAL AGREEMENT ON THE LEVEL OF SOPHISTI-
CATION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO BE USED INAREA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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